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(54) **Blue stretch using restricted color range and soft transition boundary**

(57) System and method for increasing the blue component of white and near white pixels while avoiding hard transitions and without affecting flesh-tone colors. Pixels that are bright enough and fall within a detection area in the UV-plane have their blue components increased and their red components decreased. The detection area is limited to avoid application of blue stretch to flesh-tone colors. A transition boundary is provided around the detection area for gradually decreasing the amount of blue stretch as pixels move away from the boundary of the detection area, thereby avoiding hard transitions between areas that are blue stretched and areas that are not blue stretched.

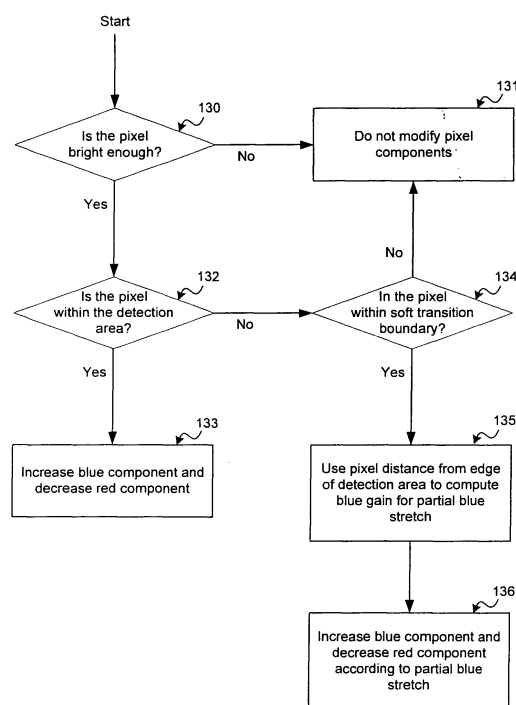


Figure 4

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European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 05 25 6356

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Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 3 June 2008	Examiner Lim, Johan
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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03-06-2008

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